

U.S. Navy Fleet and Family Support Center: Story Angles

The following is a summary of The Center's marquee programs and story angles. We invite you to contact us via the Public Affairs Officer (list enclosed) at the nearest FFSC Navy base, and you are welcome to sit in on any of our classes.



Deployment Support. Who's going to take care of things while I'm gone? How will separation impact my spouse and children? What if I come back and everything is somehow different? For deployed Sailors, these are real concerns. The Center provides real answers and coping tips in classrooms and even on board ships through the Deployment Support program. Centers at deployment bases such as Pearl Harbor, San Diego and Hampton Roads dispatch **Return & Reunion** teams to sea to meet returning battle groups and provide workshops and briefs on various topics such as returning to children, returning to intimacy, finances and car buying.

Professional Counseling. Before the establishment of The Center in 1979, if a service member or family member had a personal problem, he/she would talk to the chaplain. Many service members still do. But now they also have access to a group of professional counselors who specialize in military and combat issues. Counselors at the Center abide by standard rules of confidentiality, but they are excellent sources for expert analysis of the military psyche and current issues confronting service members and their families, especially during deployment.

New Parent Support (NPS). More than half of the active duty military force is married. Almost half is age 25 or younger. That's a lot of new parents. For them, The Center offers parenting education classes and the NPS program, staffed primarily by nurses and social workers. NPS programs include home visitations, education, counseling and referrals to other resources. Some Centers offer classes specifically for expectant fathers, often called "Boot Camp for New Dads."

Personal Financial Management (PFM). Many young service members are making steady money for the first time in their lives – and then spending it in the wrong places. See firsthand what the Navy is doing to combat this problem through the Center's PFM program, where attendees learn the basics of money management and retirement planning. Some Centers even offer PFM classes specifically for military children.

Spouse Employment Assistance Program (SEAP). The average Navy family moves every three years and needs two incomes to pay the bills. That puts a lot of strain on military spouses, who must find portable careers. Find out what the Navy is doing to help this group through SEAP, its various job search workshops and interview skills classes, and its partnerships with national staffing agencies such as Adecco.

Transition Assistance Management Program (TAMP). The transition from military duty to civilian life is a step into the great unknown. Through TAMP, The Center offers a three- to four-day seminar that covers all aspects of separation, including skills assessment, job search strategies and a review of military benefits. Service members attend usually three to six months before separation. If you ever wanted to see what "separation anxiety" is all about, this is the place.

Crisis Response. In response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a team from Hampton Roads set up two Family Assistance Centers and 24-hour call centers, in Norfolk and at The Pentagon, in less than a day. The Center has established itself as a go-to organization during times of tragedy, playing key roles in relief efforts for families of the USS Iowa in 1989, the USS Cole in 2000 and the San Diego fires in October 2003.
